

ANDSF preparing for offensive & clearing operations against Taliban

A spokesperson in Afghan National Defense and Security Forces has declared that Afghan defense and security forces are preparing to launch big clearing and aggressive operations against the Taliban. This comes amid increasing mobilization and training of ordinary people in support of the country's defense and security forces.

A number of Afghans in their interviews with The Kabul Times correspondent say they are increasingly encouraging their Afghan friends to join supporting in launch of defense operations against the Taliban, according to the Kabul Times correspondent.

Meanwhile, Afghan political experts say it comes convenience in which peace talks are underway between the two sides to the ongoing conflict. It is hoped that ongoing fighting will reduce and help

maintain peace and security in the country. They believe that war is not a way for solution of disputes in the country. They say that people are in a very bad situation as they have been displaced from their home areas.

Afghanistan Ministry of Defense has informed of civilian preparations for launching offensive and clearing operations against the Taliban.

All necessary preparations are underway for recapturing of the Taliban districts, said Gen. Abdul Fatah Shoman, a spokesperson to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

He said that Taliban fighters were active in some parts of the country, saying that ANDSF were preparing to launch big offensive and clearing operations across the

country. He added that ANDSF with increasing capabilities and modern equipment could respond and address the current situation. According to Gen. Shoman, the situation is tense, but the country's defense and security forces with all motivation, morale, training and equipment they have are able to control the situation as they have been able to repulse 14 districts from Taliban fighters.

Pointing to US and NATO troop withdrawal process from Afghanistan, Gen. Shoman said military aid has been promised upon the completion of the process and there had been promises to fill the gap, adding that there have been some problems appeared in social level, but they have now been addressed.

The ANDSF spokesman further said that with US withdrawal from Bagram airbase, handing over US military bases to ANDSF have been completed and there was no US military base in the country anymore.

Based on data of the country's defense and security organs, nearly 2,500 Taliban fighters have been killed and wounded as a result of the ANDSF operations in seven provinces of the country.

Meanwhile, ministry of defense has declared that Afghan defense and security forces have been able to clear provincial police departments (DPS) headquarters and government offices from presence of Taliban fighters, who have controlled Qalat-e-Nar, the provincial capital of Badkhis. It is worth noting that the provincial capital of Badkhis is under full control of ANDSF.

Suraya Raiszadeh

Armed Afghan women take to streets in show of defiance against Taliban

By Farwa Zaidan-Haroon



Women have taken up guns in northern and central Afghanistan, marching in the streets in their hundreds and showing pictures of themselves with assault rifles on social media as a show of defiance as the Taliban make sweeping gains nationwide.

The conservative militant, Abbulbaki Farisizade, said in a phone interview that some of the women who came out in the streets of Ferozshah, the provincial capital, had already killed the Taliban, and most had no intention of violence from the group.

Women have taken up guns in northern and central Afghanistan, marching in the streets in their hundreds and showing pictures of themselves with assault rifles on social media as a show of defiance as the Taliban make sweeping gains nationwide.

They are not likely to head to the frontlines in large numbers any more for them and their families.

One of the biggest demonstrations was in central Ghaz province, where hundreds of women turned out at the weekend, waving guns and shouting anti-Taliban slogans.

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Campaign to promote domestic products launched

Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) has launched campaign to promote domestic products, particularly fresh fruits in the country.

The move has been warmly welcomed by Afghan citizens across the country.

In the campaign, the people have been asked to use domestic products rather than foreign products. Currently, there are different types of domestic products, particularly dry and fresh fruits in all markets across the country.

Although there are different types of dry and fresh fruits in Afghanistan markets, it is seen that foreign fresh fruits are imported on daily basis and most people prefer to purchase foreign fruits as most fresh fruits imported from foreign countries has been packed and stored in a better way.

Recent campaign launched for promotion of using domestic products by the country's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has been welcomed by the people.

In the meantime, the Ministry has been asked to provide some training programs to processing and packing fresh fruits to the country's orchard owners and farmers.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has told media that collection of fresh fruits is underway across the country as a part of the fruits have been already delivered to the country's markets.

"Fruit crops have represented only increased following continued promotion and creating new opportunities for the country's agricultural products, promotion of domestic products and encouraging the people to use and purchase domestic agricultural products rather than imported and foreign products."

Rustam further said that purchasing each domestic product could put huge positive impact on the life of the country's farmer and orchard owners in the near future.

The Taliban have been sweeping across rural Afghanistan, taking down schools, including in places such as northern Badkhis province, which 20 years ago was an anti-Taliban stronghold.

They now have multiple provincial capitals in other under siege. In areas they control, the Taliban have already brought restrictions on women's education, their freedom of movement and their clothing, activists and residents of these areas say. In one area, they were circulating demanding that women put on burqas.

Even women from extremely conservative rural areas expect to see more liberal clothing in the future, according to a new survey of a group whose voices are rarely heard. Taliban rule will take them in the opposite direction.

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